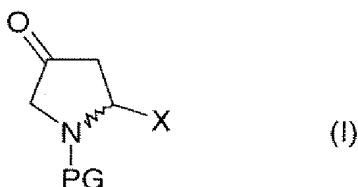


## Amendments to the Claims

No amendments have been made herein. The claims now pending are shown below in the Listing of Claims.

## Listing of Claims

- 1-4. (Cancelled)
5. (Previously presented) A process for preparing N-protected 4-ketoproline compounds of formula (I):



in which

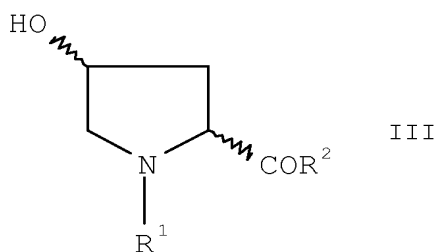
X is an acid, ester or amide function,

PG is an N-protective group which comprises a carbonyl function and is bonded via this function to the nitrogen,

said process comprising oxidizing a 4-hydroxyproline compound with an oxidizing agent in the presence of catalytically active ruthenium compounds,

wherein the oxidation is carried out in an aqueous one-phase system, and the oxidation product (I) is induced to crystallize out during the addition of said oxidizing agent.

6. (Previously presented) The process of claim 5, wherein said hydroxyproline compound is a compound of formula (III):



in which

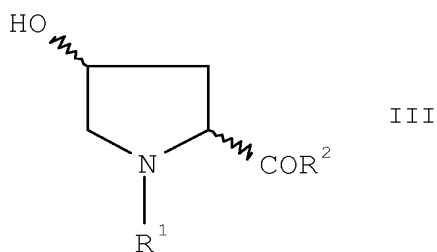
$R^1$  is  $\text{CO-R}^3$  or fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl,

$R^2$  is  $\text{NH}_2$ , or  $\text{OR}^4$ ,

$R^3$  is (H),  $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_8)\text{-alkyl}$ , phenyl, benzyl, benzyloxy,  $\text{NH}_2$ ,  $\text{NO}_2\text{-phenyloxy}$ ,  $\text{NO}_2\text{-benzyloxy}$ ,  $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_8)\text{-alkoxy}$  or phenyloxy,

$R^4$  is H,  $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_8)\text{-alkyl}$ , benzyl, phenyl,  $\text{NO}_2\text{-benzyl}$ , or  $\text{NO}_2\text{-phenyl}$ .

7. (Previously presented) The process of claim 5, wherein the temperature during the oxidation is kept at  $\leq 30^\circ\text{C}$ .
8. (Previously presented) The process of claim 5, wherein the temperature during the oxidation is kept at  $\leq 15^\circ\text{C}$ .
9. (Previously presented) The process of claim 5, wherein said oxidizing agent is a hypohalite, halate or perhalate salt.
10. (Previously presented) The process of claim 9, wherein said hydroxyproline compound is a compound of formula (III):



in which

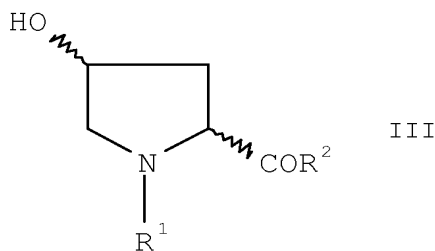
$R^1$  is  $\text{CO-R}^3$  or fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl,

$R^2$  is  $NH_2$ , or  $OR^4$ ,

$R^3$  is (H),  $(C_1-C_8)$ -alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, benzyloxy,  $NH_2$ ,  $NO_2$ -phenyloxy,  $NO_2$ -benzyloxy,  $(C_1-C_8)$ -alkoxy or phenyloxy,

$R^4$  is H,  $(C_1-C_8)$ -alkyl, benzyl, phenyl,  $NO_2$ -benzyl, or  $NO_2$ -phenyl.

11. (Previously presented) The process of claim 9, wherein the temperature during the oxidation is kept at  $\leq 30^\circ C$ .
12. (Previously presented) The process of claim 9, wherein the temperature during the oxidation is kept at  $\leq 15^\circ C$ .
13. (Previously presented) The process of claim 5, wherein seed crystals are added to the reaction mixture after addition of 50% of said oxidizing agent.
14. (Previously presented) The process of claim 13, wherein said hydroxyproline compound is a compound of formula (III):



in which

$R^1$  is  $CO-R^3$  or fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl,

$R^2$  is  $NH_2$ , or  $OR^4$ ,

$R^3$  is (H),  $(C_1-C_8)$ -alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, benzyloxy,  $NH_2$ ,  $NO_2$ -phenyloxy,  $NO_2$ -benzyloxy,  $(C_1-C_8)$ -alkoxy or phenyloxy,

$R^4$  is H,  $(C_1-C_8)$ -alkyl, benzyl, phenyl,  $NO_2$ -benzyl, or  $NO_2$ -phenyl.

15. (Previously presented) The process of claim 13, wherein the temperature during the oxidation is kept at  $\leq 30^\circ C$ .

16. (Previously presented) The process of claim 13, wherein the temperature during the oxidation is kept at  $\leq 15^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
17. (Previously presented) The process of claim 13, wherein said oxidizing agent is a hypohalite, halate or perhalate salt.
18. (Previously presented) The process of claim 17, wherein the temperature during the oxidation is kept at  $\leq 30^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
19. (Previously presented) The process of claim 17, wherein the temperature during the oxidation is kept at  $\leq 20^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
20. (Previously presented) The process of claim 17, wherein the temperature during the oxidation is kept at  $\leq 15^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
21. (Previously presented) The process of claim 5, wherein said oxidizing agent is sodium periodate and wherein the temperature during the oxidation is kept at  $\leq 30^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
22. (Previously presented) The process of claim 5, wherein the oxidation takes place in a purely aqueous solvent and the temperature during the oxidation is kept at  $\leq 30^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
23. (Previously presented) The process of claim 5, wherein said aqueous solvent also includes a water-soluble organic solvent and the temperature during the oxidation is kept at  $\leq 30^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
24. (Previously presented) The process of claim 23, wherein said oxidizing agent is sodium periodate.